

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DHESTER:LLC  
APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP  
PM/ISO:JBURGESS (INFO)  
INR/DDC:THEAVNER (INFO)  
-----025258 052244Z /70

O R 052201Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
JCS WASHDC 0501

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR AG US

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF PROTEST TO GOA ON INCIDENT INVOLVING  
U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT, JUNE 28

1. AFTER ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR MAOUI AT HIS REQUEST, PAID  
NON-SUBSTANTIVE COURTESY VISIT ON JULY 5 TO UNDER SECRETARY  
DAVID NEWSOM, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NICHOLAS VELIOTES  
GAVE HIM FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE PROTESTING ALGERIA'S  
ACTION IN SUBJECT INCIDENT. AMBASSADOR MAOUI, WHO WAS  
UNINFORMED ON SUBJECT, SAID HE WOULD REPORT DEMARCHE TO  
ALGIERS.

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2. EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT TEXTS OF AIDE MEMOIRE  
TO APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL UPON RECEIPT OF  
FRENCH TRANSLATION WHICH DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING FOR  
TRANSMISSION. AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINS ALL ESSENTIAL INFORMA-  
TION ON THIS INCIDENT AVAILABLE TO USG.

3. BEGIN TEXT: AIDE MEMOIRE

ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 28, 1978, AN ALGERIAN MIG AIRCRAFT, SIDE NUMBER 182, ENGAGED IN UNNECESSARILY AGGRESSIVE AND DANGEROUS MANEUVERS OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE, AND THEREBY THREATENED THE SAFETY OF A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT.

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT LATITUDE 35-51 NORTH, LONGITUDE 001-22 WEST COMMENCING AT 0920 ZULU TIME. THE MIG-21 INITIALLY APPROACHED A UNITED STATES MILITARY PATROL AIRCRAFT FROM THE SOUTHWEST AND MADE EIGHT CONSECUTIVE PASSES ON THE U.S. AIRCRAFT. IT FIRST MADE AN OVERTAKING, AFTERBURNER ASSISTED PASS APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET BENEATH THE U.S. AIRCRAFT AND EFFECTED AN IMMEDIATE PULL-UP DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1500 FEET ON A COURSE OF 030T. THE U.S. AIRCRAFT SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED NORTH TO OPEN FROM THE ALGERIAN LITTORAL AND COMMENCED DESCENT TO 200 FEET. THE MIG AIRCRAFT PERFORMED A SECOND OVERTAKING PASS, CLOSE ABOARD THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE DESCENDING U.S. AIRCRAFT, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY AN IDENTICAL PASS UP THE LEFT SIDE OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS AT 200 FEET, HEADING NORTH. PASSES FOUR THROUGH EIGHT WERE PERFORMED PERPENDICULAR TO THE FLIGHT PATH OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT.

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AIRCRAFT, ALTERNATING LEFT TO RIGHT ACROSS THE NOSE AT THE SAME ALTITUDE, WITH A FREQUENCY OF LESS THAN 1 MINUTE.

THE TACTICS APPEARED TO BE HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE IN NATURE. THE ALGERIAN MIG AIRCRAFT TERMINATED THESE TACTICS AT 0928 ZULU TIME.

THESE DANGEROUS AIRCRAFT MANEUVERS TOOK PLACE MORE THAN 17 NM FROM THE ALGERIAN COASTLINE, CLEARLY OUTSIDE ALGERIAN TERRITORIAL AIRSPACE. THEY ARE CONSIDERED FAR IN EXCESS OF ANYTHING REQUIRED FOR SAFE IDENTIFICATION OF AN AIRCRAFT.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOTES THAT ITS AIRCRAFT WAS EXERCISING THE FREEDOM TO FLY IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE OVER THE HIGH SEAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROTESTS STRONGLY THE ACTIONS OF THE ALGERIAN AIRCRAFT. THESE ACTIONS CONSTITUTED A HAZARD TO THE SAFE NAVIGATION OF THE U.S. AND ALGERIAN AIRCRAFT IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE AND WERE IN VIOLATION

OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF AVIATION SAFETY.

THIS PROTEST IS BASED ON A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT, WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OVER THE PAST WEEK. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE A SIMILARLY CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE INCIDENT ON THE ALGERIAN SIDE, AND WOULD WELCOME AN EXPLANATION OF THE ALGERIAN POSITION, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR IN ALGIERS, IN THE FULL CONVICTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALGERIA WILL DO ITS UTMOST IN THE FUTURE TO PREVENT REPETITIONS OF SUCH DANGEROUSLY PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS BY AIRCRAFT UNDER ITS CONTROL.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, AIR EXERCISES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DHESTER:LLC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** DELIVERY OF PROTEST TO GOA ON INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT, JUNE 28  
**TAGS:** PEPR, MILI, PDIP, AG, US  
**To:** ALGIERS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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